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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
15 June 1953

WORLD REACTION TO THE EAST GERMAN
POLITBURO DECISIONS



(Report No. 3)

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USSR

No comment to date.

Eastern Europe

Satellite media have not as yet referred to the East German policy decisions.

Eastern Germany

East German transmitters accorded the most extensive publicity over the weekend to the "recommendations" of the SED Politburo meeting of 9 June and the subsequent decisions of the Council of Ministers.

One commentator said that the main aim of the new program is to strengthen national ties between East and West Germans, but added that Adenauer's "arrogant demands" are blocking this.

A Neues Deutschland editorial said that it is a mistake to underestimate the loss to East Germany because of the number of party and government officials who fled to West Germany, while Berliner Zeitung lauded the admission of past mistakes by the government with the assertion that the Bonn government would never make such confessions.

Communist leader Reimann called for all Communists to come to an understanding with SPD (Social Democrat) members to achieve united working class action.

State Department review completed

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West Germany

Chancellor Adenauer said: "Our policy is and must remain the same as before." His minister of all-German affairs advocated East-West talks on unification "without neglect of Western defense efforts." He said that it was no use to theorize whether such talks were worth while, but that only the course of the talks would establish this point. He asserted that the East German moves do not mean fundamental changes, nor do they restore the rule of law.

American officials in Bonn reported that the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD), which had been pessimistic about its election prospects, now thinks that it has been given a campaign issue by the East German preparations for unification. The party's main line will now be that it is the only major West German party really working for German unity. The SPD is now prepared to go to irresponsible extremes, say these officials, in advocating four-power talks -- even to the extent of accepting further reparations and the principles of the Potsdam agreement as a basis for the talks. The party is also willing to consider a system of guarantees and non-aggression pacts for a unified Germany, with the restriction that West Germany would not be permitted to make other alliances.

In Berlin, the Evangelical Church Council called for rejoicing over the church-state agreement, branding it a "decisive change" and declaring that its motivation should not be probed. The council pointed out, however, that many restrictions were still in force.

France

Communist Humanite merely says that the East German decisions increase the chances of a four-power agreement, and will encourage the French in the fight to prevent ratification of the Bonn and Paris treaties.

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